



CHILDREN'S NEWSPAPER

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EVERY TUESDAY

FOUNDED BY ARTHUR MEE

PRICE THREEPENCE

TAKING A SCHOOL TO PITCAIRN

Carrying the Torch to a Pacific Paradise

Some months ago we published an account of the new school which was being prefabricated in Fiji for Pitcairn, the lonely South Pacific island which is inhabited by descendants of the mutineers of H M S Bounty. The C N is now able to add to the story a chapter which has come to us from the Education Officer who is in charge of the school, Mr A. W. Moverley. The manner of Mr Moverley's learning of the C N account is no less romantic than the story he has to tell of taking the school to the island.

A CORRESPONDENT in Que Que, Southern Rhodesia, recently told me (writes Mr Moverley) that you had published an account of the departure of our expedition. . . . It has occurred to me also that you might be interested in our progress to date. Here it is in brief.

We left Fiji, the headquarters of the Western Pacific High Commission, late in June and took 25 days to reach Pitcairn. Our ship was no ocean greyhound, but the distance is about 3000 miles, and we did have a break of five days at Tahiti for fuel and water.

Unloading our 330 tons of cargo into the islanders' open boats in the open sea off Pitcairn was a rather hazardous undertaking, but it says a lot for their skill and strength that nothing was lost overboard. The passage to the landing-place is through sunken reefs and is less than a chain wide at its narrowest.

Manhandled Cargo

The beach is an open one, less than 30 yards long. There was no mechanical power available for shifting cargo out of boats to the shore—we had many drums of cement each 3½ cwt, two refrigerators each 5 cwt, a diesel engine 15 cwt, and a power winch of some tons, but they were all manhandled ashore safely.

Fortunately, a "flying fox"—a

wire cable with an engine at the cliff top—was in position for lifting all but the heaviest up the cliff, 300 feet high. From there everything has to be carried by the local men to the building sites about a mile away, and this job is almost complete except for a lot of the cement. Sand for the concrete also comes from this beach, and the gravel is picked from a seam about half-way up the cliff path and carried from there.

Builders From Fiji

It is no wonder, then, that we do not expect to be ready for the school to open this year, but to date (September 28) all the excavation and levelling have been done, and on the school community centre all the concrete foundations are down, the wooden piles are in, the plates and joists are on, and the framework of one semi-detached crafts-room is ready for hoisting into position. I have with me three Indian builders from Fiji, and all the local men help as labourers or as semi-skilled workers.

The site is a most beautiful one of about three acres on a grass slope studded with trees, including coconuts, various citrons, pawpaws, mangoes, bananas, guavas, pandanus, and young timber trees. It faces the sun and the broad Pacific. Behind is a bare rocky crag, and to the west is a sheer cliff with Christian's Cave scowling down upon us.

I have enrolled two dozen schoolchildren, and I shall have to make some provision for a number of the older people who are keen to make up for their previous lack of opportunities, but there is a lot of work ahead. Pitcairn is a little Paradise.

Opening the School

AND there, in his little Pacific Paradise, we must leave this countless carrier of the Torch of Learning with his pupils young and old.

Perhaps we may add, by way of a postscript, that Mr Moverley has expressed the wish to have the C N regularly for his school. This shall be done; and we hope that this issue may reach Pitcairn in time for the opening of the new school.

THE HERRING FLEET'S IN



A busy scene on the wharf at Yarmouth following the arrival of the herring fleet from the fishing grounds.

When Is It Rather Cold?

OUR BODIES AND THE WEATHER

THE winter weather forecasts are now upon us, and they differ from the summer forecasts in several important particulars. Cold is one of these, and though the degree of coldness may vary it will be a constant feature of the winter forecasts.

British weather forecasting as issued by the Meteorological Office is based upon the physiological factor; that is, it takes into account the effect of the weather on human beings. Thus we hear on one day that it will be "very cold," and on another "cold" or "rather cold," though the temperatures may be the same in each case, or even lower in the "rather cold" division.

The reason is that temperature alone is not the deciding factor in whether we shiver or not. The degree of humidity has a lot to do with it, and also whether the air is still or gusty. Visitors from Canada are often perished in our climate in winter, because of the dampness, though, of course, it is far warmer than the "fifty below" experienced in their native country.

When the air is relatively dry and still, freezing point or below is easily borne; but when, as often happens, the atmosphere is saturated with moisture and a gale is blowing, the Meteorological Office feels justified in issuing a "very cold" forecast, even though the actual temperature may be in the forties. The forecasts are, in fact, designed in relation to our bodies, in their reaction to weather conditions.

KIM'S GUN

By a decision of Lahore Corporation "Kim's Gun" is to be replaced by a memorial to the Martyrs of Pakistan, massacred by the Sikhs. No longer will it preside over the great Hall of the West Punjab capital, where Rudyard Kipling made it world-famous.

Actually, this gun, "ZamZam-mah," is a souvenir of a Sikh victory over the Moslems, a great green bronze piece, always first of the victor's booty. But to everyone throughout Pakistan it is known by the name of the little boy with whom the British writer associated it.

Readers of Kipling will remember how Kim is introduced sitting astride the "fire-breathing dragon," opposite The Wonder House, as the natives call the Lahore Museum. With young Chota Lal and Abdullah he is playing the "King of the Castle" game, and along comes the Tibetan lama in search of the River of the Arrow, the man who is to have such an influence in Kim's life.

Now the gun is to be moved. The Sikhs of the East Punjab declare that the gun is theirs; but what will happen to it is still uncertain.

The Wedding of Muckle-Mou'd Meg

A YOUNG BORDER RAIDER'S CHOICE

AN amusing 17th-century document known as Muckle-Mou'd Meg's marriage contract, which was in the possession of Viscount Elibank, has now been offered to Edinburgh Corporation and will be placed in the Huntly House Museum.

Muckle-Mou'd (big-mouthed) Meg was one of three rather ill-favoured daughters of Sir Gideon Murray, an ancestor of Viscount Elibank; neither their wealth nor their rank would persuade anyone to marry them.

One day young William Scott, a handsome son of a well-known border raider known as Wat of Harden, was captured while trying to drive off the cattle of Elibank Tower.

Because of an old feud Sir Gideon Murray decided to hang

the young man. But his wife had an idea. "Why hang the winsome Laird of Harden when ye are like to have three daughters left on your hands?" she asked Sir Gideon. He immediately saw her point, and as a result William Scott was faced with marriage to Muckle-Mou'd Meg or death.

Tradition has it that the young man's first choice was death. However, he changed his mind and accepted the hand of the lady.

But the story has a happy ending, for the marriage was a very successful one, and five generations later there appeared a descendant who was to do them great honour. He was none other than the illustrious novelist, Sir Walter Scott!

STRANGERS IN SYDNEY HARBOUR

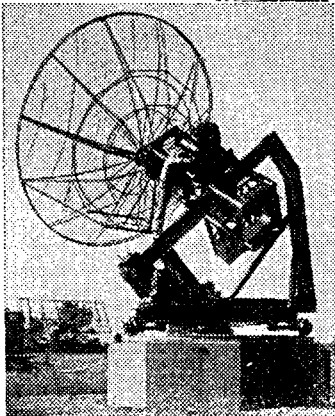
A SEA-LEOPARD, so called because it has a leopard-like face, made its way into Sydney Harbour the other day. This 12-foot-long seal, which rarely makes its way into busy waters, preys ruthlessly on fish and crabs. It is said to be able to travel up to 75 miles an hour—quicker than a speedboat, and obviously difficult to catch!

In fact, it is believed that not one but at least twelve sea-

leopards found their way into Sydney Harbour, because sea-leopards were apparently seen in different places at precisely the same time.

Possibly a whole family of these Australian Loch Ness monsters decided to explore the ins and outs of one of the world's finest harbours. At any rate, it was bad luck for the small fish that frequent that world-famous water.

RADIO DETECTOR



This saucer-shaped antenna is part of an electronic "telescope" now nearing completion at Cornell University, New York. It will record radio interference from the Sun.

WHEN NATIONS GO TO LAW

As we write, the International Court of Justice is weighing the facts which two years ago gave rise to a serious dispute between Britain and Albania.

This hearing at The Hague is a good illustration of the progress made in international relations in the past half century or so. The word *progress* can be used because the use of courts to settle differences between States is a comparatively recent idea.

The trial concerns the mining of two British destroyers in Albanian waters in October 1946. Many sailors were killed or injured, and our ships suffered heavy damage. Our naval authorities hold that the Albanians permitted mines to be laid in the path of British warships.

Changed Ideas

As Sir Hartley Shawcross, the Attorney General, said when opening the British case against Albania: "Fifty years ago such incident would have undoubtedly led to immediate naval action of the gravest kind against Albania." Instead, Britain took a step which should in similar circumstances be taken by any civilised community—she has sued Albania for damages.

It is easy to understand how one individual can sue another if they live in the same country. It is a more difficult question when they live in different States. How, then, does an International Court of Justice work?

There must above all be an agreement between the nations concerned to allow the Court to judge a dispute. The first court of this kind was created by The Hague Peace Conference in 1899. And, though many difficulties were encountered by the various international courts set up since then, the idea itself has survived two great wars and is today firmly established in the minds of all civilised peoples.

Holland was host to two great Conferences (in 1899 and 1907) which aimed at finding ways of peaceful solution of international disputes; and, as a tribute to her,

Builders' Men in the White House

THE American people have given Mr Truman another four years' stay at the famous White House in Washington, the official home of America's presidents, but the builder's men have gone in instead. For the building has been found to be unsafe and is closed for extensive repairs.

President Truman himself noticed about a year ago that the chandelier in a large reception room was shaking unusually as people walked about, and it was found that the ceilings of this and other rooms were sagging badly.

Another surprising discovery was that poor materials had been used in the past to repair this historic mansion. The marble grand staircase was found to be in danger of collapse. The bricks which supported it, built there in 1880, had been bought second-hand, and have been crumbling away.

The White House was begun in 1792 to the plan of an Irish-American, James Hoban, who won a competition for the best design for a house for the President, George Washington. The house was not ready until 1800,

the present International Court of Justice, like its predecessors, has its seat in the magnificent Palace of Peace in The Hague, seat of the Dutch Government.

The way this Court deals with cases is very much like that of an ordinary court. There is a bench of judges headed by a President, but their number is bigger than in national tribunals—a full session may require the presence of as many as fifteen judges of many nationalities. Then there are the contending parties represented by counsel, who are usually highly-qualified international lawyers, and use very much the same arguments a lawyer uses in any Court of Justice. Court procedure, too, consists of argument and counter-argument, examination of witnesses, and court decisions.

The main difference between the national and the international court is in the nature of the cases tried. The present dispute between Britain and Albania is one good example. But there are other interesting problems that have been solved by international courts. There were, for instance, the questions of which country, Norway or Denmark, was the sovereign power in Eastern Greenland; whether Turkey was justified in trying a French merchant marine officer whose ship collided with a Turkish collier outside Turkish territorial waters.

The International Court

The variety of the cases tried shows that step by step the rule of law is being established in relations between nations. We are, of course, still far from the ideal where all disputes would be subject to court decisions. But, disappointing as the progress may now be, there will inevitably come a day when the use of force will be altogether abolished by all nations and give place to the acceptance of decisions of an impartial international court.

CHRISTMAS TREES ARE ON THE WAY

CHRISTMAS trees will soon be in the shops again. At the moment, in various parts of the country, many thousands of them are being prepared by H.M. Forestry Commission, which is responsible for the re-afforestation of Great Britain and has special nurseries where nothing is grown but Christmas trees.

The most common Christmas tree is a Norway spruce, with soft needles of beautiful green. When two years old the little

Where Unesco is Meeting

BEIRUT, the capital of the little country of Lebanon in which Unesco is holding its third annual conference, is a thriving university town, both the Americans and the French having founded universities there. Beirut is, in fact, one of the chief centres of modern Arab culture. It has a population of about 250,000.

Situated amid some of the most beautiful coast scenery of the Mediterranean, the town has as its background the mountains of Lebanon. It was the Berothai from which King David in his Syrian war "took exceeding much brass," and was the Phoenician Berytus. The Crusaders occupied it for a few years in the 12th century, and in 1841 British forces won it from the Egyptians and gave it to the Turks.

The French developed it as a seaport for both Lebanon and Syria in the 19th century and became the mandatory power of those countries in 1918. In 1941 the complete independence of Lebanon was proclaimed at Beirut. Lebanon is a member of the United Nations and the Arab League.

BRITISH YOUTH AND THE LINGIAD

EXPERTS of the Ling Physical Education Association have been visiting schools, health and P.T. organisations, and youth clubs in the British Isles to select some 80 or 90 young people between the ages of 12 and 17 who will represent Britain in the Lingiad, sometimes called the Olympic Games of Gymnastics, to be held at Stockholm next July.

They have also visited teachers' training colleges to choose the men's and women's teams. Altogether Britain will send 600 men, women and children, nearly treble the number that attended the 1939 Lingiad, when no children were included in our team.

At the first Lingiad, held in 1939 to commemorate the centenary of the death of Peir Henrik Ling, "the father of scientific gymnastics," 37 nations took part; this year invitations have been sent to 54 countries.

At the Lingiad there is actually no competition. The aim of the display is to show the progress made by various countries, and new ideas in physical education. Each nation gives demonstrations by elite teams, consisting of 16 or 18 children, and mass teams, which may consist of as many as 200 men and women.

There will also be displays of national and folk dancing.

The second Lingiad, which will last for a week, will be followed by an International Congress, where experts and health authorities will discuss the display, and exchange ideas on physical education.

CHRISTMAS TREES ARE ON THE WAY

trees are carefully lifted from the seed-beds and transplanted in a special Christmas tree nursery." Here a careful watch is kept over them until, finally, when six or seven years old, they are delivered to the shops.

In most cases the roots are cut from the trees, but sometimes it is possible to find a tree which still has roots. If you have such a tree, then after the party you may plant it in the garden, where it may flourish.

WORLD NEWS REEL

20,000,000 EGGS. The Colonial Development Corporation is to set up a poultry establishment in Gambia, in West Africa, which will produce about 20,000,000 eggs yearly.

An increase in the numbers of the rare trumpeter swan, North America's largest bird, is reported from the Red Rock Lakes and the Yellowstone Park region in the U.S.

A large new comet in the Southern sky, with a long, slightly curved tail, has been seen from South Africa, Argentina, Mexico, and Australia. It is described as being brighter than Venus, and as the most beautiful since Halley's comet in 1910.

Italy and Greece have signed a treaty proclaiming perpetual peace and friendship.

CAT CAPERS. A kitten belonging to a lady of Salisbury in Southern Rhodesia likes green peas. It takes off the pea skins very cleverly with its mouth and paws, and miaows for more.

The first monument to be erected to a native chief in Southern Rhodesia was unveiled recently at Umtali. It is to Chief Kazima Umtasa, 1867-1942. A native band with bamboo flutes played at the ceremony.

HOME NEWS REEL

THE WAY TO LEARN. Twenty-two Redcar schoolboys were taken in Auster aircraft to make an aerial survey of Teesside. Then they returned to make a relief model of this industrial riverside.

Joan Slade, aged 28, is the new Rodent Officer of the Sevenoaks R.D.C. During her eight years in the Women's Land Army she specialised in rat-catching.

Prize money amounting to £4,000,000, for enemy ships captured during the war, is to be shared out among officers and men of the Royal Navy and Royal Marines. A further £1,250,000, the R.A.F.'s prize money, is to be shared among R.A.F. benevolent funds.

Professor Blackett, the nuclear physicist, stated recently that British scientists believe they have discovered that magnetism comes from the crust of the earth and not from its centre; experiments in the Rand gold mines and down in a British coal mine indicate this.

YOUNG ARTISTS. An exhibition of over 400 paintings by London schoolchildren is being held at Whitechapel Art Gallery till December 15.

YOUTH NEWS REEL

GUIDE VIOLINIST. Some years ago the Chief Guide (Lady Baden-Powell) presented her violin to the Girl Guides Association to be competed for by Guides who show particular talent.



Here is Rosemary Utting, age 14, of the 1st Cheam Company, who has just been awarded the use of the instrument for the next two years.

For their journey to Eire for a soccer match against the Dublin Battalion, Boys' Brigade,

Recent brush fires on a front of 18 miles in the Santa Anna Mountains of California were fought by 1250 men. The inhabitants of 350 houses in Silverado Canyon had to be evacuated.

A new transmitting tower, the most modern in Europe and nearly 600 feet high, is in operation at the Swiss radio station of Sottens.

LUCKY! Seventy £1 notes lost in a drain at Auckland, New Zealand, were washed up by the sea.

The Ruhr coal, iron, and steel industries are to be transferred from the former German companies that owned them to German trustees, pending a final decision as to what is to be done with them, which will be made by a new German Government.

HAY PLANE. A zoo ship recently ran out of rations for the baby elephants and various other animals and birds which she was bringing from the Far East to New York. A U.S. Navy flying-boat flew 1000 miles out to sea with two tons of hay and 2500 worms.

The Hong Kong Government have agreed to lend 10,000 tons of rice to Shanghai, where there has been a severe shortage.

On the Thames and Medway marshes bird-watchers have reported flocks of over 2500 wild duck settling at one time.

GOOD MORNING! A carter of Fleetwood, Lancs, who was ordered recently to keep his sheep-dog under control, claimed that the dog boils a kettle for him each morning. Overnight he leaves an electric kettle full of water for the dog to switch on with her paw and wake him by barking when it boils.

For saving a boy's life in the public baths at Reddish, Stockport, Michael Hulme, 13, has been granted a free season ticket for the baths, and has received a letter of appreciation from the Royal Humane Society.

NO TOLL. Shaldon Bridge, near Teignmouth, has been bought and freed from toll by the Devon County Council.

Britain's steel production in October reached an annual rate of 15,455,000 tons, the highest ever achieved in the industry.

MORE SCHOOLS. The Government has made plans for a programme of building Primary and Secondary schools in 1949 which will be more than twice the amount of work done in 1948.

at Easter next year, the Nottingham Battalion are planning to charter a special plane.

GUARD OF HONOUR. Fifty Sea Scouts—all King's Scouts—will form a guard of honour for the King and Queen at the Royal Command Film Performance at the Empire, Leicester Square, on November 29, when the film Scott of the Antarctic will be shown. The Scouts will represent R.R.S. Discovery. Scott's old ship, now used as a Sea Scout training ship.

The Scout Gilt Cross has been awarded to Assistant Scoutmaster Simpkin and Patrol Leader Malcolm Blair, of the 1st Lanchester Group, County Durham, for saving another Scout from drowning in the River Tees.

Boys' Towns in Germany

MORE boys' towns are reported—this time from Germany, where difficult boys in the British Zone are brought into camps for training at Soderstorf and two other neighbouring camps.

In the first 24 hours half of the boys disappeared, taking with them the blankets and clothes issued to them. A code of discipline was then drawn up, and each boy was asked to sign it. A Lagerrat, or court of honour, was instituted, and the boys, finding that they themselves were to be entrusted with the task of enforcing discipline, were soon convinced of the sincerity of their sponsors.

As soon as the boys discover that someone is willing to accept them as ordinary members of society they settle down to normal life; and the next problem is to find them employment,

A BIG CATCH

AT a recent sea-angling festival at Eastbourne two hundred experienced fishermen were left far behind by a twelve-year-old schoolboy, Jeffrey Blackmore. He caught but one fish, a 2 lbs 15½ oz plaice, but this catch beat everything the other competitors could offer. With it he won four cups and six prizes, and so Jeffrey is not likely to forget his first appearance in a fishing festival.

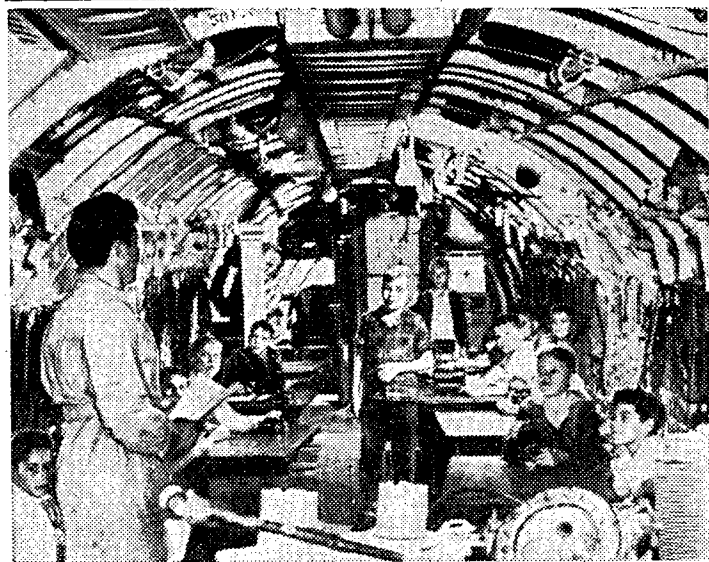
Cricket Overseas

ENGLISH players have always been in great demand as coaches, but seldom have so many cricketers left these shores at one time. In addition to the MCC team now touring South Africa, quite a number of well-known cricketers are out of the country for the winter, fulfilling coaching engagements.

In South Africa at the moment are Halliday (Yorkshire), Watkins, and Robertson (Middlesex), Ray Smith, Avery and Cray (Essex), Walsh and Jackson, Leicestershire's popular Australians, and several others.

Sid Brown (Middlesex) has gone to Australia to coach, while Joe Hardstaff, the famous Notts and England batsman, is similarly engaged in New Zealand.

The knowledge that English cricketers are still in great demand as coaches overseas proves without a doubt that there is little wrong with our cricket.



Aircraft Classroom

In the grounds of an elementary school in California is a Commando transport aircraft in which classes are held on the theory of aviation. Our picture shows the lads receiving instruction in the aircraft classroom.

and make their "boys' town" self-supporting. The local authorities help by supplying a fixed sum for every boy who passes through, and by finding employment for him in forestry or farming.

After a period of observation at Soderstorf, the boys are sent to one of the other camps, and put to work in the woods or on farms. Here they earn from 20 to 30 marks a week, out of which they pay two marks for their upkeep. The rest they are encouraged to put into savings accounts. Such clothes as can be found are sold to them. Education classes are held each evening, but these are, of necessity, sketchy, as most of the boys are educationally backward.

The proudest achievement of these "boys' towns" is that they apparently have solved the wandering-youth problem.

Deaf Children Win

COMPLETELY deaf schoolchildren recently won a competition for schools in collecting waste paper. These dauntless young folk, 28 in number, belong to the Old Kent Road School, London, and they were competing against 24 schools whose pupils can hear normally.

They won Lewisham Council's cup for the school with the best paper salvage collection in the previous three months. The deaf children's ages range from three to thirteen. They collected the paper in the neighbourhood of their own homes and brought it to school in sacks, gleaning an average amount of 34½ pounds for each child.

ON THE AIR

A WEEK or so ago Sherborne School was playing Blundell's School, Tiverton, at football on Blundell's home ground. Naturally, all the boys at Sherborne wanted to watch the match, but, as Sherborne is 40 miles from Tiverton, this was not possible.

So the next best thing was arranged. The match was broadcast to Sherborne! A fifteen-year-old scholar of Blundell's gave a thrilling commentary using a Cadet Force short-wave set. But he did not have the excitement of shouting "It's a goal, a wonderful goal!" in true commentator style, as the result was no score.

THE STORY OF ILLUMINATION

THE Science Museum, South Kensington, London, is building a new Illumination Section in three parts. The first part will illustrate the development of lighting from medieval to modern times; the second part, most of which is now in being, shows by means of push-button demonstrations, the principles upon which good illumination depends; the final part will deal with modern developments in discharge tubes and fluorescence.

Included in the new section will be exhibits from the Darkness into Daylight Exhibition at the Museum which was visited by 500,000 people and which closed recently. Many of these exhibits, such as dioramas, a working model illustrating stage lighting, experimental types of lamps, and others, were contributed by the Electric Lamp Manufacturers' Association, who have now presented them to the Museum.

It is hoped that the new Illumination Section will be open to the public early next year.

AN AUCTION SURPRISE

MR J. G. MILNER, a retired farmer of Heath, Derbyshire, was recently looking for bargains in books at a Chesterfield auction when he made a purchase that will excite the envy of many book-lovers and collectors. A bid of five shillings secured for him a copy of an old Bible. It proved to be a genuine "Breeches Bible," printed in 1608 by R. Barker, printer to James I. The margin contains numerous annotations in faded ink.

Copies of this freak edition of the Bible are rare and are often valued at several hundred pounds.

Robot Monitor

A ROBOT monitor sounds a very unpleasant sort of invention. One imagines a weird machine sitting in class with an observation apparatus to detect misbehaviour and report to the teacher on his return. The only hope for some people would be if the teacher forgot to switch on R.M.

Yet such a contrivance has been produced—not, mercifully, for use in schools, but by the BBC. It has been designed to take the place of human monitors who, previously, have had to listen to all programmes for distortion or other interference. The monitor detects and signals all defects in transmission—and continues to signal them until they are eliminated.

CONCRETE THAT BENDS

A NEW type of concrete, known as "pre-stressed concrete" which, it is claimed, will revolutionise present building processes, is being produced at maximum speed by British building firms. This new concrete, which will be largely used in the construction of factories, houses, and offices, as well as railway sleepers, is four times stronger than normal reinforced concrete—and it bends!

This high resistance material, capable of taking strains undreamed of a few years ago, is made by stretching steel wire with a high breaking point in concrete and then releasing it when the concrete has set.



For a Rainy Day

Although handicapped by his umbrella, the Emir of Abuja, in northern Nigeria, managed to plough quite a straight furrow when he visited a farm in Warwickshire.

The Spare-Time Tapestry

FOLDERS illustrating the Victory Tapestry are being sold at 2s 6d each for the Bishop of London's Reconstruction Fund, to which Miss Janet Barrow has given her tapestry. It is eventually to hang in the rebuilt Church of St Clement Danes, London, the "Oranges and Lemons" church, as a memorial of the war years.

Miss Janet Barrow worked this tapestry in her spare moments from 1941 to 1946, and, although she had had no previous experience of such intricate work, the result is a beautiful work of art, in seven panels.

More information about the folder, which contains a coloured illustration of the complete tapestry and a description of its creation written by Alan Melville, can be obtained from the Secretary, Victory Tapestry Fund, St Clement Danes Parish House, Portugal Street, Strand, London, WC 2.

CANADIANS RESCUE BIRDS

A RECENT tragedy to migrating waterfowl in Canada has shown that our Canadian kinsmen have a great regard for wild life.

The tragedy happened to many thousands of wild duck and other fowl which were resting on the River St Lawrence, near Grondines, on their journey to the south for the winter. A tanker had gone aground in the great river and had released a mass of oil. The feathers of the migrant birds had become so covered with the oil that they were quite unable to fly.

When the news of their plight spread, hundreds of nature-lovers came to do what they could for the luckless little travellers. They caught many of them, cleaned the oil from their feathers and released them—a work of mercy indeed.

Attempts were also made to break up the mass of oil in the river so that new arrivals from the North should not suffer.

LIGHT FROM AFAR

SOME time ago Mr W. L. Root, who owns the only shop in the little North Suffolk village of Wilby, protested to the Ministry of Fuel and Power that the supply of candles allocated to him was totally inadequate to meet the needs of his customers.

The news got in an American newspaper, and as a result Mr Root has received a letter of sympathy from a lady in Illinois. Explaining that she is "very interested in the people of England" because her husband belonged to Plymouth and her father to London, she has offered to send him some candles.

Shifting West Indians

THE report of the Evans Commission on Resettlement, which has just been published, recommends that much of the surplus population in the British and other West Indian islands, as well as displaced persons from Europe, could be absorbed in the sparsely-populated colonies of British Guiana and British Honduras. In both these colonies there is room for many more people, particularly in the cocoa and banana plantations.

When there is an inflow of population into a comparatively undeveloped region, however, many precautions must be taken. One of the most important is the provision of medical services, and another is that the settling of large groups of immigrants must be carefully planned.

LONG-WAVE RADIO

JOHN CASTLEDINE of Broad Marsh, Nottingham, recently had a pleasant surprise; a railway delivery man called with a box and asked him to sign for a wireless set. It was the set sent to him by his father three years ago when he was serving in the Far East.

Moreover, the wireless set was still perfect, without even a valve broken, though it had travelled from England to Bombay, Calcutta, and Rangoon, and then back to Ceylon, and from Ceylon back to England—altogether more than 21,500 miles.



Christmas Cavalcade

One little girl knows what she wants for Christmas as she inspects the rocking horses at a London toy factory.

Films of Today and Tomorrow

The C N has asked Eric Gillett, the popular film critic of the BBC Children's Hour, to tell readers about films worth seeing. Here is Mr Gillett's first article; others will appear at intervals.

It is only right that my first film article in these pages should deal with a great new British enterprise, first announced in the Children's Newspaper some months ago. Cinemas in London and the provinces are showing now the first pictures made at Cookham, Berks, by the British Cartoon Film Centre under the direction of David Hand, for fifteen years with Walt Disney.

Disney chose him to be Supervising Director of his first feature film, Snow White. Later, Hand became production supervisor for the whole of the Disney Organisation, and when it was decided to produce the film of Bambi he was again chosen as Supervising Director.

A Cartoon Industry

Some time in 1944 J. Arthur Rank decided to develop a British cartoon industry on a scale never attempted before. It was essential for him to get an expert to put in charge of the enterprise and natural that he should have chosen Disney's second-in-command. It was natural, too, that David Hand, having gone as far as possible in the Disney organisation, should have welcomed the chance of creating a new industry over here in England.

At the outset initial difficulties were heavy. It was wartime. The majority of artists were in the Services, or engaged on other forms of war work. Hundreds of artists had to be interviewed. Thousands of drawings were inspected. A suitable spot for the studios and workrooms had to be found. The building of technical equipment presented another problem. When at last the right type of artists had been found a course of training for the animated cartoon medium was begun.

Today, four years later, over 200 people, of whom 147 are artists and technicians, are employed at the British Cartoon Film Centre, Moor Hall, Cookham, and The Lion, first of the new series of eight-minute coloured cartoons, is being shown to audiences all over the country.

Most of the staff live on the premises or near the studios, because David Hand believes that the quiet of the countryside provides the best atmosphere for the difficult and exacting work of cartoon production.

Six cartoons have been made, and four shown to the critics. They represent the first productions in two new series. Of the films shown to the critics The Lion and The Housecat open the Animaland series; The Thames and Wales herald the Musical Paintbox group. The Lion seems to indicate that David Hand is feeling his way into the future by presenting a number of bird and animal characters in the best Disney tradition in order to see which of them takes firmest hold of the public fancy. Zimmy, the hero, is an attractive beast, but a glimpse of Boko, the parrot, makes it likely that this bird will be groomed for stardom. Zimmy's last act is to swallow an explorer (who speaks with the voice of Richard Gooldeen) when he is typing an essay on The King of Beasts. As the film ends, the explorer is heard to remark from the lion's inside, "The lion will not eat man."

The Musical Paintbox series has far greater possibilities. It is something entirely new in coloured cartoons. The first cartoon is The Thames, and it depicts in charming cartoon scenery and with vivid characters a journey down the Thames from its slender source to Southend Pier, packed on August Bank Holiday. The music is worthy of the film, and further subjects in Musical Paintbox already announced—Wales, Yorkshire, Devon, and Scotland—will be eagerly looked for.

Here is a new departure in film-making which will be watched with keen interest not only in Great Britain but also all over the world. E. G.

FOOTPRINTS TO SAFETY

THE people of Kensington were surprised the other morning to find on their pavements white footprints leading to the road safety crossings. They were part of the borough's Road Safety Campaign, and were an idea from Lucerne, Switzerland, where their use is said to have been very successful.

He Left His Name on the Map

STUDENTS of geography owe quite a lot to Sir John Barrow, who died just a hundred years ago, on November 23, 1948. Not the least of his many and varied activities during a long life was the foundation in 1830 of the Royal Geographical Society.

He was born in 1764 at Dragley Beck near the Lancashire town of Ulverston, and attended the Grammar School there. Observing his interest in astronomy, his schoolfellows pooled their pocket-money to buy him a celestial globe and star map, which he put to such good use that he spent every clear night studying the heavens. At the same time he worked diligently at mathematics and navigation.

It seemed at first as though this early training would be wasted when young Barrow obtained a position as timekeeper in a Liverpool iron foundry. Before long, however, he asked leave from this employment to accompany a whaling expedition to the seas round Greenland, whence he returned with an interest in the Polar regions which was to remain with him for the rest of his life.

Travels Far Afield

His former employment being no longer available on his return, he obtained a post as teacher of mathematics at Greenwich School.

After spending seven years in this way he became secretary to Lord Macartney, who took him to China and later to Africa, where one of Barrow's most difficult and dangerous tasks was to visit the interior to effect a reconciliation between quarrelling Boers and Kafirs. He remained there to explore and map much new territory.

He married and lived for a time in a house which faced the beautiful slopes of Table Mountain, but returned to London in 1802 to become a secretary to the Admiralty, a post he occupied with distinction for 40 years.

Now he was able to satisfy his burning enthusiasm for polar exploration, for, though unable to visit the frozen wastes in person, he was instrumental in promoting many expeditions to the north polar regions. There his memory is perpetuated on the map in such names as Barrow Strait, Cape Barrow, and Point Barrow.

The Royal Geographical Society may well be proud of the man to whom it owes its origin.

WORKERS' PARADE



This girl in a bell foundry is testing the electro-pneumatic mechanism of a new carillon.

The Editor's Table

THE PRINCE

EVERYONE is rejoicing in the birth of a son and heir to Princess Elizabeth and the Duke of Edinburgh. Everyone shares in the great happiness brought to his parents by the baby prince.

To offer congratulations to a proud mother and father is a natural and felicitous act springing from affection, and it is on great occasions such as this that the Royal Family are made fully aware of the deep affection in which they are held by their people.

BORN into the British royal house the young prince is the pride not only of his own parents and grandparents, but the pride of a whole people. All the loyalty which British hearts feel towards the throne is symbolised in the Royal Family where the universally-respected virtues of family life are so securely established.

This deep personal affection between throne and people is the foundation of British life and particularly of the group of free peoples which have grown up under the British flag. The British people's welcome to the infant prince is therefore charged with emotions of many kinds. But foremost is the tender welcome to a new mother and a new baby.

*THE world has no such flower in any land,
And no such pearl in any gulf the sea,
As any babe on any mother's knee.*

The Way to Happiness

THERE are two ways of being happy—we may either diminish our wants or augment our means—either will do, the result is the same; and it is for each man to decide for himself, and do that which happens to be the easiest. If you are idle, or sick, or poor, however hard it may be to diminish your wants, it will be harder to augment your means. If you are active or prosperous, or young, or in good health, it may be easier for you to augment your means than to diminish your wants. But if you are wise you will do both at the same time, young or old, rich or poor, sick or well; and if you are very wise, you will do both in such a way as to augment the general happiness of society. Benjamin Franklin

BY WISDOM HE RULED

THE childhood shows the man,
As morning shows the day.
Be famous then
By wisdom; as thy empire must extend,
So let extend thy mind o'er all the world. Milton

The Right of the Individual

THE Archbishop of York pointed out recently that an example of the simplest form of Communism is found in the Acts of the Apostles, but, he said, while it is possible to be a Christian and a Communist, it is not possible to be a Christian and a Marxian Communist (a follower of the teachings of Karl Marx) without disloyalty either to Christ or Marx.

Speaking on what should be our attitude to the Communism of Marx he went on: "Bare denunciation is not sufficient. . . . Where there is squalor and misery there is fertile ground for the seed of Communism. It is a judgment on the social and economic sins of Western civilisation. The best defence is the removal of the social wrongs, in which it flourishes. The Church must take a firm stand against any form of economic domination, whether capitalistic or communistic, which denies the right of the individual."

THE COW WITH A COLD

A RECENT debate in the House of Commons having led certain members to "boo," the Speaker sharply admonished the offenders, and in so doing brought the word *booing* into the written records of Parliament. The incident led to some unofficial inquiry into the origin of "boo," and in no less an authority than the Oxford English Dictionary it is found to mean the same as "moo."

Anyone familiar with the bellowing of cattle will declare that the cow that boos when it means to moo, must be the victim of a cold in the head!

JUST AN IDEA

As Charles Kingsley wrote,
The loveliest fairy in the world
... and her name is Mrs
Doasyouwouldbedoneby.

Under the



PETER PUCK
WANTS TO KNOW

If the man who
demanded a house
got a flat refusal

IT should be possible for seaside towns to provide enough winter work to mop up seasonal unemployment. By manufacturing mops?

WALES wants a voice in its own business. Hopes to change its tenor.

SOME people think freckles fascinating. They grow on you

A CERTAIN author hates mountains. Always runs down hills.

A NUMBER of professional footballers are studying at an L C C college. Learning how to pass?

MINDS MADE UP

It is satisfying to note that those young people who have recently been leaving school at the age of 15 have taken a more responsible attitude towards the question of what sort of jobs they want than was often the case with those who, in the past, left at 14. This is one of the hoped-for results of raising the school-leaving age.

According to a youth employment service report, only seven per cent of 15-year-old boys and girls leaving secondary modern schools were undecided on what they wanted to be.

One certainly needs to be quite 15 before settling this momentous question.

As Others See Us

Not long ago the Premier of British Columbia spoke in Canada of a tour of Britain's industrial centres, made by him and other Commonwealth statesmen, from which he had just returned.

"On the Pacific coast we are always hearing of Britain's export drive," he said, "and here we were privileged to see it in action. No doubt could be left in the mind of a visitor to the plants which we inspected that behind every worker was a sense of earnestness and purpose, and that they were labouring not merely for personal benefit but with awareness that it was in the national interest. We have often heard of a Britain with its back to the wall; here we saw Britain with its coat off and very notably on the job."

NOVEMBER MOSAIC

Oh! the sight of the hills
With the red of the heather;
The brown of the bracken
And green of the whin!
The sweep of the river.
Trees huddled together,
With the whirring of wings
As the slow lapwings spin!

Herbert Stoneley

Editor's Table

HOUSEWIFE wants to know what to do with unripe tomatoes. Ripen them.

BOYS are urged to put their backs into their jobs. And carry all before them.

MAN who grew a beard for fun is sticking to it. So long as it sticks to him.

MAN says his neighbours are against him. They ought to be on his side.

THE Ministry of Food is trying to obtain more dried fruit before Christmas. Let us hope it will not rain.



THINGS SAID

If we could but widen the understanding which exists between the peoples of the Commonwealth to embrace the whole world we should be laying the finest foundation for lasting peace.

Mr Attlee

WESTERN UNION, if we can make it what it should be, would mobilise the will and the resources of 400 million. The Atlantic Pact, if it succeeds, might bring 200 million more. These figures show how the forces for peace, democracy, and freedom may be built up.

P. J. Noel-Baker, M P

THE White House is the greatest fire-trap in the nation . . . only standing up by habit.

American Public Buildings Commissioner

If all the postmen went out on their morning deliveries with smiles on their faces, by 9 o'clock the whole city would be smiling.

The Postmaster of Nottingham

A REAL home is one where mother, father, and children are united in a small, independent community.

Cardinal Griffin

BETTER FILMS

It is announced that the British Film Institute is to be re-constituted with a fresh board of governors and a grant of money from the Government to help it do its important job.

Films affect nearly everybody's life. Many go regularly to the cinema, but how few really do their cinema-going intelligently and learn to criticise constructively what they see?

The new Institute's idea is "to encourage the development of the art of the film, to promote its use as a record of contemporary life and manners, and to foster public appreciation and study of it from these points of view." That sounds very formidable and rather highbrow. But in practice it will mean, we hope, better films and audiences more capable of understanding what a good film is.

Too much that is unworthy is permitted in our cinemas. If the Institute can raise the standard of films it will deserve well of all of us.

THE OPTIMIST

No matter how much rain comes down,
How hard the wind may blow,
The robin sings his cheery song,
That all the world may know
He still remains an optimist
Despite the state of things:
For he has bucked fierce winds before
And flown with rain-soaked wings.

At any hour the wind will drop,
And it won't always rain,
And if the worms are hard to pull
Well, he just pulls again.
So why not try the robin's plan
And optimistic be?
Have faith, work hard, and keep your word,
Then happy you will be.

T. B. Gleave

Voting the End of Their Village

THE people of a Swiss Alpine village took part in a strange election not long ago; it was to decide whether or not their village should be totally destroyed—and by 24 votes to two they decided in favour of its destruction! However, they had been assured that their village would be rebuilt on another site.

Their present village of Marmels, or Marmorea, in the canton of Grisons, is to disappear in order that a dam to hold up 78 million cubic feet of water may be constructed. This dam will form the most extensive lake in the canton. Its waters will work the turbines of a hydro-electric plant which will produce about 210 million kilowatt-hours in summer (when the snows are melting) and about 135 million in winter.

Marmels stands 5360 feet up on the Julier Pass road, about ten miles from the Italian border—the villagers speak Italian. It has the ruins of a 13th-century castle which will have to go.

There are only 145 people in the village and it must have been a struggle for them to agree to end their village home which many of them have known and loved since childhood; but they made a fine, public-spirited decision and set an example to the world.

Giant Clown

Erecting a 25-foot figure on a London store for the Christmas shopping season.

Discoveries in Arnhem Land

SOME months ago the C N wrote of the adventures of the scientific expedition to Arnhem Land, in Australia's Northern Territory. The 15 scientists have now returned to Adelaide, having collected 20 tons of specimens during their eight-months expedition.

Near the expedition's camp was a naturalist's paradise, the Oenpelli pool. Dr Robert Miller, the American ichthyologist (student of fish) described it as the richest body of freshwater he had ever seen. In one haul of his net he caught 160 catfish.

Along the banks of the pool were tens of thousands of water birds, among which several rare specimens were discovered by Mr Herbert Deighnan of the U S National Museum.

An Australian botanist, Mr Stecht, discovered, among other plants, a palm previously unknown to science.

HE WROTE MANY OF OUR FINEST HYMNS

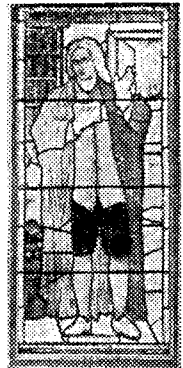
THREE of the best hymns in the English language—O God, our help in ages past, Jesus shall reign, and When I survey the wondrous Cross—were written by Isaac Watts, who died on November 25 two hundred years ago. He also wrote another twenty hymns sung regularly in churches throughout the world, and scores of others not so well known, and he is acknowledged by all as a master of his art.

ISAAC WATTS was born in 1674, in Southampton, where his father was a school-master. His grandfather had served under Blake, Cromwell's most famous admiral. Early in his twenties Isaac Watts became pastor at the Nonconformist Chapel in Mark Lane, London, which had among its congregation Sir Thomas Abney, a director of the Bank of England. He soon became a firm friend of Sir Thomas and his wife, and in 1712 went to live with them. In the shelter of their homes—at Theobalds, in Hertfordshire, and at Stoke Newington, where Abney Park Cemetery now stands—he passed the remainder of his days.

Isaac Watts was an Independent, or Congregational, minister, and as such was not entitled in those days to go to the universities; but he was learned in philosophy, natural science, history, and languages, and all through his hymns there is a breadth of knowledge which gives them spaciousness and intelligence.

Watts went to the Psalms for his inspiration, and his hymn book is called "The Psalms of David imitated in New Testament Language together with Hymns and Spiritual Songs." He helped the English people to become familiar with the psalms as hymns to be sung, or rather to be recited, for in his time there was little hymn-singing, and most of his now famous hymns were read out line by line to the illiterate congregations. In this way people learned them by heart, and Watts's lines became, like the Bible, part of the people's everyday speech. In the early nineteenth century his hymns sold as many as fifty thousand copies a year.

Isaac Watts was buried in Bunhill Fields, near Bunyan and William Blake; but there is a monument to him in West-



Isaac Watts in a church window

minster Abbey, for although poor health and a retiring nature did not bring him into normal public prominence, the nation recognised in him a man who had the gift of lifting its soul above the harsh, stern facts of daily life into lofty praise of God. He spoke for the common man of his day in his awe and worship of Almighty God.

How many thousands of services have begun with "Give to our God immortal praise" and ended with "When I survey"? In fact, Watts contains the whole of Christian theology in his hymns, and they have therefore helped to keep the faith alive in our land and have taught men, while they sing, the same truths as the Bible teaches while they read.

In conclusion, we can do no better than quote these words from Sir Norman Birkett's eloquent bi-centenary tribute to Isaac Watts, published in the Sunday Times. "... his lasting memorial is surely in the hearts of ordinary men and women the world over, for whom he found the means to express their deepest feelings of personal joy or sorrow, or in those great moments of national feeling when we are all one."

A RACE ACROSS A CONTINENT

THE recent motor race from Buenos Aires to Caracas, 6830 miles by road, was the longest ever held in South America. The route was across six countries: Argentina, Bolivia, Peru, Ecuador, Colombia, and Venezuela. The race was won by an Argentine driver, Domingo Mastrimon, in a Chevrolet.

At the start there were 133 competitors, but only 42 finished. A number of cars came to grief on the steep mountain roads, which in some places reach a height of over 14,000 feet.



THIS ENGLAND The little fishing port of Coverack, in Cornwall

Ship's Bells For Sale

THE Senior Service is well known for its ability to tackle any problem, large or small. The Admiralty has one such problem on its hands now in the allocation of some ships' bells which belonged to various types of war-time naval craft which are now being scrapped, returned to their former owners, or sold abroad.

Some 800 applications have been received for the 400 bells available and the allocation will be made on a priority basis. As an example, a man who served on one of the craft concerned will have a good claim to be considered when that particular ship's bell is sold.

Already there have been several unusual requests. There are those naval officers whose children were baptised on ship-board in an inverted ship's bell, in accordance with naval custom. An African missionary has asked for a bell with which to summon the natives to prayer. A farmer has asked for a bell to act as a gong to warn his sons, working in the fields, when meals are ready. Then there are requests from schools wishing to honour the naval vessel they "adopted" during the war. Will these bells, we wonder, be used to summon the pupils to the classroom? And, if so, will the merry sound of a ship's bell make the scholars travel less like snails to school than was apparently the case in Shakespeare's day?

LORD BALDWIN'S TREE

WHENEVER the late Lord Baldwin walked down from his home at Astley Hall, Worcestershire, he always stopped at the bottom of the hill to admire a glorious copper beech tree in a neighbour's garden. Now the owner, Mr R. P. Vale, has offered to present the tree, and a circle of land around it, as a Garden of Remembrance. A tablet will be inscribed worded, "At the top of this hill in Astley Hall lived and died Stanley Baldwin, 1867-1947, three times Prime Minister of England."

MOST OF WHAT WE KNOW OF ROBIN HOOD COMES DOWN TO US FROM BALLADS FIRST PRINTED ABOUT 1495 UNDER THE TITLE "A LYTELLE GESTE (HISTORY) OF ROBYN HOOD."



FACT OF THE MATTER

DID ROBIN HOOD REALLY EXIST?



ONE BALLAD TELLS HOW ROBIN ENTERED THE KING'S SERVICE, AND IN EDWARD II'S HOUSEHOLD ACCOUNTS OF 1324 WE FIND A CERTAIN "ROBYN HOOD" RECEIVING 3^d A DAY IN THE ROYAL SERVICE



IN COURT ROLLS OF THE MANOR OF WAKEFIELD IN 1345 THE NAME MATILDA APPEARS AS THAT OF THE WIFE OF ROBERTUS HOOD. BALLADS TELL US THAT MATILDA WAS THE NAME OF ROBIN'S WIFE BEFORE SHE CHANGED IT TO MARIAN

AS THIS IS ALL THE DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE WE HAVE CONCERNING A REAL ROBIN HOOD, HIS EXISTENCE AS THE ROMANTIC OUTLAW MUST REMAIN A SUBJECT FOR CONTROVERSY.



NEW LIGHT ON THE GREAT DR JOHNSON

THE result of 30 years of patient research was revealed recently when Colonel Ralph Isham, of New York, showed to some American scholars his unrivalled collection of the private papers of James Boswell, friend and biographer of Samuel Johnson. In making his collection Colonel Isham has spared no trouble or expense, and as a result it appears likely that a new edition of the Life of Dr Johnson will be forthcoming. Boswell was a careful workman, and the manuscripts show where he deleted or altered passages which he did not consider to be suitable for publication in their first form. These passages may add considerably to our knowledge of Johnson and his circle.

James Boswell was the son of a well-to-do Scottish judge and was educated for the bar at Edinburgh and Glasgow. While still a boy he had formed an intense admiration for Samuel Johnson, and he determined that as soon as he went to London he would meet the great man. It was in May 1763 that he obtained the long-anticipated introduction, through Davies, the bookseller, and there and then he began to note down Johnson's conversation, a habit which was to last through his hero's lifetime.

Johnson at first regarded the flattering attentions paid to him with a kind of amused tolerance, but acquaintance rapidly deepened into friendship, and before long there was no more

familiar sight in the streets of London than that of the clumsy, bulky figure of the great dictionary-maker with the slighter-built Boswell trotting faithfully beside him.

Although Johnson was the brightest star of his constellation, Boswell also gloried in meeting the famous men who clustered around him—men such as Oliver Goldsmith, Sir Joshua Reynolds, David Garrick, and Edmund Burke. Boswell, as Johnson affectionately called him, achieved the height of his ambition when his idol proposed him for a place in his club, which met in Gerrard Street, London, and over which Johnson presided. The talkative Boswell was not a universal

favourite and there was some opposition to his becoming a member, but Johnson was resolute and eventually had his way. "If they had refused, sir," he said afterwards to Boswell, "they'd never have got in another. I'd have kept them all out."

It is mainly on account of Boswell's unfailing devotion that we have such a clear and exact picture of Samuel Johnson. The biographer painstakingly noted down the minutest characteristics of his hero, in describing how "while talking or even musing as he sat in his chair, he commonly held his head to one side towards his right shoulder, and shook it in a tremulous manner, moving his body backward and forward, and rubbing his left knee in the same direction, with the palm of his hand. In the intervals of articulating, he made various sounds with his mouth, sometimes as if ruminating, or what is called chewing the cud, sometimes giving half a whistle, sometimes making his tongue play backwards from the roof of his mouth, as if clucking like a hen, and sometimes protruding it against his upper gums in front, as if pronouncing quickly under his breath, too, too, too." Observation can go no further.

When Boswell's Life of Johnson appeared in 1791 it was hailed as the most interesting biography ever written, and today, more than a century and a half later, it still holds that proud position.

A Missile From Space

AUSTRALIAN geologists have decided that a giant crater which was discovered some months ago in Western Australia was caused by a meteorite. The crater is in an excellent state of preservation, and the meteorite which blasted it out must have fallen in what is in geological reckoning fairly "recent" times. The date was probably before the first Aborigines reached the Island Continent.

The crater, which is 100 miles south of Hall's Creek, is more than 100 feet deep, and is over half a mile wide at the bottom. It was first seen by airmen who were making an oil survey.

Circuses On the Move

CHRISTMAS is coming and the circuses are on the way to town. For animals and performers alike it means a great change from their more usual routine.

In the case of a tenting show on the road, the staff, performers, and animals live together in a self-contained community. In the biggest of the travelling circuses in Great Britain—Bertam Mills's—there are about 40 caravans, in which the assembled company live most of the time. When the circus moves from town to town they travel by special train, the caravans being loaded on to wagons. The elephants, tigers, horses, and ponies are stabled for the journeys in specially-constructed stalls.

Coats For Elephants

On the closing night in a town, the performing elephants appear earlier in the programme, so that they can be led to the station ahead of the others. They walk to the station in single file. They are first dressed in long overcoats to keep them free from draughts, for they fear draughts—and mice—more than anything else. When they retire for the night they take it in turn to stand guard. Usually each animal holds the fort for two hours, then she nudges the next one for duty, lies down, and takes her turn at sleeping. They "tell the time" without aid from their only nightly attendant, a youth of about 17.

Twelve children—sons and daughters of performers—travel with the show. In each town visited they must attend a local school. Most of them pick up smatterings of several languages in the circus, which has people of 20 nationalities.

Mr Cyril Mills has flown 35,000 miles this year to 20 countries in search of new talent. Among his discoveries is a 19-year-old Swedish boy known as the "Prince of horse-trainers." He is Lasse Nygren, and he has received the consent of his parents to come to London where, at Olympia, he will be one of many performers who will gladden all hearts at Christmas.

THROUGH THE LOOKING GLASS—Lewis Carroll's Delightful Fantasy, Told in Pictures

Tweedledee continues his poem about the Walrus and the Carpenter. That pompous humbug, the Walrus, has just invited the Oysters to come for "a pleasant walk." The eldest Oyster artfully declines.



But four young Oysters hurried up, All eager for the treat: Their coats were brushed, their faces washed, Their shoes were clean and neat—And this was odd, because, you know, They hadn't any feet. Four other Oysters followed them, And yet another four; And thick and fast they came at last, And more, and more, and more—All hopping through the frothy waves, And scrambling to the shore.



The Walrus and the Carpenter Walked on a mile or so, And then they rested on a rock Conveniently low: And all the little Oysters stood And waited in a row. "The time has come," the Walrus said, "To talk of many things: Of shoes—and ships—and sealing-wax—Of cabbages—and kings—And why the sea is boiling hot—And whether pigs have wings."



"But, wait a bit," the Oysters cried, "Before we have our chat; For some of us are out of breath, And all of us are fat!" "No hurry!" said the Carpenter. They thanked him much for that. "A loaf of bread," the Walrus said, "Is what we chiefly need: Pepper and vinegar besides Are very good indeed—Now if you're ready, Oysters dear, We can begin to feed."



"But not on us!" the Oysters cried, Turning a little blue. "After such kindness, that would be A dismal thing to do!" "The night is fine," the Walrus said. "Do you admire the view? It was so kind of you to come! And you are very nice!" The Carpenter said nothing but "Cut us another slice: I wish you were not quite so deaf—I've had to ask you twice!"

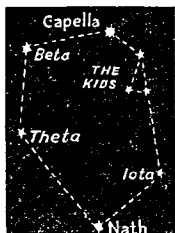
More About These Two Greedy Hypocrites in Next Week's Instalment of This Amusing Story

Some Wonderful Stars of Auriga

By the C.N. Astronomer

THE grand constellation of Auriga, the Shepherd of several thousand years ago which was partly described in our last article, now occupies a large area of the sky to the south-east of overhead after 9 p.m. The lower borders of Auriga meet Taurus, the Bull, and so close are they that the Foot of Auriga meets the tip of one of the Bull's Horns. The star Nath represents the spot where the Bull's Horn touches Auriga's Foot, but the star has been accredited to the Bull, and its other title is Beta-in-Taurus.

Beta-in-Auriga is, as can be seen from the star-map, to the east of the brilliant Capella. It is a most wonderful star, known since ancient times as Menkalinan, and has been found to be composed of two stars relatively very close together and so placed that one periodically passes in front of the other. Consequently there occurs a variation in their combined light as observed from the Earth. This light takes some 96 years to reach us, so each variation we see has happened 96 years before.



The chief stars of Auriga

These twin stars are about six million times more distant than our Sun and each sun is about two million miles in diameter, that is, nearly two and a half times wider than our Sun. These twin stars being only about 7,700,000 miles apart from centre to centre, it follows that only some 5,700,000 miles can separate their surfaces. They revolve round a common centre of gravity at enormous speed, so that once in about every four days one sun passes partly in front of the other, and so reduces their light by about one-twelfth as seen from our world. The full light of these twin stars is about 109 times more than that of our Sun, and from certain spectroscopic evidence and peculiarities in their light-curve, it is found that they are egg-shaped, their small ends being not very far apart, the suns being so drawn together by gravitational attraction as to produce a permanent distortion as they swing round.

A Companion Sun

A very different type of double-star is Theta-in-Auriga; this is 88 light-years' journey away and radiates about 52 times more light and heat than our Sun. It is accompanied by a very small "companion" sun at a great distance, which radiates little more than half the light of our Sun. A very much greater sun than Theta is Iota-in-Auriga, which radiates nearly 200 times more light than our Sun but from a distance 11,455,500 times farther away, its light taking 181 years to reach us.

BEFORE sunrise on Sunday, November 28, the planet Venus may be seen in the south-east sky appearing only a little way above the slender crescent of the Moon, thus presenting a fine celestial spectacle. Venus is now becoming more and more remote from the Earth and receding to beyond the Sun, her present distance being about 120 million miles.

G. F. M.

SUGAR FROM BRITAIN'S OWN FIELDS

BRITAIN'S 18 sugar-beet factories are working night and day, seven days a week, processing one of the heaviest crops of beet for many years. About one quarter of all the sugar consumed in Britain is the product of British farms. On an average our farmers supply us annually with 500,000 tons of high-grade sugar—the equivalent of an 8-ounce weekly ration for every man, woman, and child in the country.

But that is only part of the story, for no part of this amazing root crop is wasted. Even the long tap-roots of the beet serve a useful purpose, for they are left in the ground to provide a valuable humus for the soil.

One acre of sugar-beet yields about 28 cwt of sugar, a weekly ration of 8 ounces for 6272 people; 15 cwt of dried pulp, equal to 5 quarters of oats; and 9 tons of crowns and leaves, equal to 11 tons of swedes as cattle food.

Beet pulp is an extremely valuable feeding stuff much prized by farmers. Sometimes it is mixed with molasses—another by-product of sugar manufacture—which makes it much more palatable for the cattle. Molasses is that part of sugar syrup which will not solidify during the refining process. It is used in many industrial processes, including distilling, varnish-making, and yeast production.

Another useful by-product is carbonate of lime, which is put on the soil to improve succeeding crops.

The sugar-beet crop of a recent season resulted in our farmers benefiting by over £20,000,000, while the Chancellor of the Exchequer received nearly £9,000,000 by way of Excise duty.

Crystals of sugar from beet were first extracted in Prussia in 1747, and experiments to find out if the crop could be grown successfully in this country were made just over a century ago. The first of our present 18 factories was erected at Cantley, in Norfolk, in 1912, and the majority are now situated in the counties of Lincoln, Norfolk, Suffolk, Essex, and Yorkshire.

As many as three or four thou-

sand growers may be under contract to one factory, for an average-sized factory must be fed with anything up to 2000 tons of beet every 24 hours.

A heavy crop of beet does not always mean it will produce more sugar—it is the sugar content that counts in the long run. This varies between 15 per cent and 20 per cent according to the weather experienced between planting and harvesting. More sun means a higher sugar content. When a farmer's consignment of beet arrives at the factory, samples are taken and analysed most carefully to determine their sugar content. The result of this analysis will partly determine the price the grower will be paid for his crop.

How is the sugar extracted? The beet are thoroughly washed in warm water and then cut into thin slices. These thin slices (or "cosettes," as they are called) are then steeped in huge vats called diffusers, in which the sugar juice is extracted. The juice is pumped into tanks and purified with lime. Carbon dioxide gas is then bubbled through the mixture to remove the impurities. Machines called evaporators come into action and convert the thin juice into a thick syrup. This is boiled under vacuum until crystallisation takes place. As already mentioned, the molasses element will not crystallise, but high-speed centrifugal machines soon whisk this away, leaving behind pure white granulated sugar equal in every respect to best cane sugar.

Britain's beet sugar is a great dollar-saver. It is estimated that a recent year's crop, if bought from abroad, would have cost us no less than 72 million dollars!

Just Eleven Pairs of Football Boots

FORTY years ago, in the autumn of 1908, Dr John Arthur, a medical missionary in East Africa, started a football team among the boys at the mission station of Kikuyu. That was the beginning of the Christian Church there which now numbers over 15,000 people.

Dr Arthur wrote home to his friends in Scotland for a supply of football boots, which his boys were eager to wear. But only eleven pairs were sent, so each member of the two teams had one boot each. They kicked so hard and dangerously, however, that the casualties were numerous, and finally Dr Arthur had to prohibit boots. Ever since then Kikuyu boys have played their football with bare feet.

Dr Arthur says that his first hospital was only a tiny brick dispensary, and as he did not know the language he used as interpreter a small Scots boy of nine who was born in the country and could speak the language like a native. In 1908 Dr Arthur opened his eight-bed hospital, which cost £500 to build.

This pioneer is now revisiting the scenes of his early work to see the transformation in African

life since those days. Then he could not persuade any member of the Kikuyu people to work in the hospital, because of possible association with death. Not until 1909 did any Kikuyu boy say that he was willing to help the doctor even though he had been baptised as a Christian.

In his own young days Dr Arthur played Rugby for Glasgow University and the London Scottish. From his early soccer team he has seen develop one of the largest Christian communities in Africa.

A NEW PLANT

FROM Suffolk comes news of an interesting natural history discovery.

The other day two members of the Mildenhall Natural History Archaeological Society found what was to them a new plant.

The plant belongs to the Solanum or Nightshade family, and is believed by experts of South Kensington to be a hitherto unrecorded one. It resembles the ordinary woody nightshade and is something like the miniature "orange" trees which are sold as pot plants.

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THE BRAN TUB

ABOUT TO GO

JACK had volunteered to help the conjurer on the stage.

"Are you quite satisfied that you hear your watch ticking inside this handkerchief?" asked the man of magic.

"I'm more than satisfied," replied Jack. "It hasn't gone for a month."

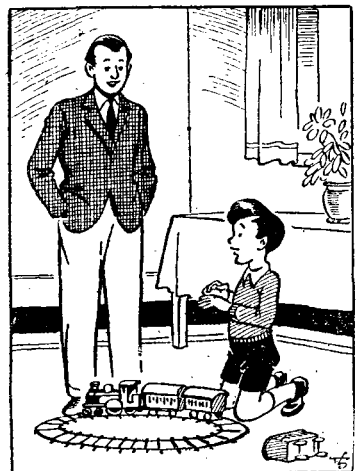
What Towns Are These?

UNDERNEATH are the names of six towns in Britain that have been written in a different way. Can you guess what they are?

HILLANDING-PLACE
LOCKABOVE
MODERNHARBOUR
MIXFISH
SOLEMNDISPATCH
BIRDOCEAN

Answer next week

Roddy



"When I had measles you gave me this train set; now I've got a spot on my hand can I have some signals?"

BEDTIME CORNER

Robert Rabbit

"My whiskers, it's cold!" exclaimed Robert Rabbit, shivering in the frosty mist. And all the other young rabbits who had been also sleeping in squats among the bent-down bracken, agreed.

"We shall have to go down into the Warren to sleep now, that's all," Robert announced. "And it's been such fun out here on our own."

"Not only fun! Think how safe we've been from those bad-tempered old buck rabbits living there," a young rabbit interrupted.

"They'll kick and cuff us for certain if we start looking for sleeping places down there," objected another.

"Pooh! I'd like to see any old buck stopping me from sleeping in the Warren!" snorted Robert, who was so dashing and brave that he was ready to take on anyone.

But that is exactly what did happen. All the best places in the Warren were already taken, and the rest occupied, too. So when Robert and his young friends began stepping on and bumping into the inhabitants as they searched the tunnels, the old bucks were furious. They kicked and chased the young ones out into the wood every time.



Jacko had no objection to helping to stir the Christmas pudding.

FARMER GRAY EXPLAINS

The Discreet Spider. The web quivered violently as a wasp became entangled in its meshes. Don watched curiously, wondering how the spider would fare against so formidable a prisoner. But no spider appeared, and the wasp gained its freedom.

"Usually, the spider rushes out and binds its victim instantly," Don told Farmer Gray.

"Quite right, Don," replied the farmer. "The spider can tell by its sensitive forefeet just what type of insect is trapped. Most insects are trussed up immediately, and, having been rendered powerless, are disposed of at the spider's leisure. Spiders recognise wasps as dangerous foes, and allow them to escape unchallenged."

ROCK CAKES

THERE was an old lady named Jones, Who baked some remarkable scones. Her husband roared "OH!" When one fell on his toe. "Your scones are much harder than stones."



All the rabbits set to work with a will. And by the end of the week Farmer was very surprised, when he moved his sheep into that part of the turnip field, to see all those new rabbit holes in the banking there.

Jacko Stirs Himself to Action



"They always said I was a good 'mixer,'" chuckled Jacko.

Other Worlds

In the evening Uranus is in the east. In the morning Venus is low in the south-east and Saturn in the south-east. The picture shows the Moon at 6.30 on Wednesday morning, November 24.



POOR PERCY

Poor Percy, refereeing once— A soccer expert he— Blew for a foul, and then, poor dunce, Gulped down the whistle's pea. It made our hero feel quite ill— The pain was "simply killing"; But Percy felt worse when shown the bill— "For loss of pea—one shilling."

Our Hard Hearts

We often hear the expression "a heart of gold," but although there is no gold in the human heart, there are certainly other metals. Examination through the spectroscope has revealed traces of copper, aluminium, and silver. The thyroid gland has been found to contain tin, silver, copper, lead, and zinc.

Children's Hour

BBC Programmes from Wednesday, November 24, to Tuesday, November 30
WEDNESDAY, 5.0 Children's Concert. 5.30 Book Review. Midland, 5.0 A Bobby Brewster Story; Young Artists. N. Ireland, 5.0 Irish Stew. Scottish, 5.0 Children's Magazine.

THURSDAY, 5.0 Christopher Cobber (Part 1). 5.15 The Box of Delights (Part 1). Welsh, 5.30 Maggie-Alice and the Bees—a story; Film Music and Songs.

FRIDAY, 5.0 Biggles (Part 1). Scottish, 5.0 Pets' Corner: How to make a Mountain—a talk.

SATURDAY, 5.0 Jennings at School (3). Scottish, 5.0 A Tammy Toot story: The Tom, Dick, and Harry Show. West, 5.0 Ebby (8); Once a Month; Not so long to Christmas—a talk.

SUNDAY, 5.0 Black and White—a story; Verse and Music. N. Ireland, 5.0 A Mr Murphy and Timothy John story; Nature Diary; Carolla Junior String Orchestra.

MONDAY, 5.0 On a Cattle Ranch (2). 5.15 Songs; The Montmartre Players. 5.40 Talk. Midland, 5.15 The Twenty-four Blackbirds—a fantasy; John Williams VI—a talk. North, 5.0 The Launching of Janet (4).

TUESDAY, 5.0 The Treasure Seekers (13). 5.15 Down at the Mains. N. Ireland, 5.0 Osbert (Part 2); Peter Comes in from the Farm; A Story; The Bangor Dragon—a story; Songs; Piano. North, 5.0 Mole's Castle (2); Music: Soccer Talk.



And for once his "Mix-up" was greeted with applause from Mother.

Sage Saw

A good name is better than a good face.

HEAVY

SHE was appealing to members to supply refreshments for the church social.

"And so," she ended, "what we need are not abstract promises but concrete cakes."

What Your Name Means

Ursula	...	little bear
Vera	...	true
Veronica	...	true image
Victoria	...	conqueror
Vincent	...	conquering
Violet	...	modest grace
Virginia	...	flourishing

LAST WEEK'S ANSWERS

What Town Is This? Reigate

ANIMAL	US
FANATIC	C
MIEN	STO
LADE	EARN
METER	ORE
OVEN	ORE
WE	SAVE
ERPLASSO	
RS	WELTER

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